HINATA NO OOKAMI

CHAPTER 1

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BIRZ COMICS

ひなたの狼

新選組綺談

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Sasaki-dono

As I expected, the capital is still cold
So it is...
It's not that! You're in single-layer clothing in this kind of season...
Even in mid-winter...
I'm always in this.

He seems indifferent to everything

MINATA NO OOKAMI
Shinsenmi Kidan
SAITOU
MISAKI

HINATA NO OOKAMI

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THIRD YEAR OF THE BUNKYUU ERA (1863) SUMMER KYOTO
WAIT!!
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY! KILL HIM!
HASHI-MOTO!! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HUFF ...
HUFF HUFF ...

CHAPTER 1
(PROLOGUE)

AUGH ...
I'M HURT ...

WHERE IS THIS PLACE ...?
AHH! SOMEONE'S BEEN MURDERED ...
KIMIGIKU, WE'D BETTER TURN BACK!
WAIT ...
OH NO, HE'S EVEN HOLDING A BLOODY SWORD!

HE'S HURT...
SIS, YOU'RE GOING TO POKE YOUR NOSE INTO SOMETHING TROUBLE-SOME AGAIN...
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
IS THAT SO?
AH,
WAIT!
ARE YOU A WOMAN FROM THE PLEASURE QUARTERS?
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP.
...

I'M SORRY, BUT COULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHERE I AM?
I HAVEN'T BEEN IN THE CAPITAL FOR LONG, SO I'M NOT TOO FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA
ARE YOU FROM EDO?
WHERE ARE YOU STAYING?
WHERE DID HE GO!?

YOU REALLY HAVEN'T SEEN HIM?
NO, I'M SORRY.
HE'S A RONIN WHO LOOKS LIKE A WOMAN.
OOH ...
THIS WOMAN DOESN'T LOOK BAD.
ARE YOU FROM SHIMA-BARA?
I CAN ASK FOR YOUR COMPANY THE NEXT TIME I PAY A VISIT.
I'M REALLY EXPENSIVE

HAHAHA, A WOMAN WITH PERSONALITY
SEE YOU.
...IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR YOU TO COME OUT NOW.
.. THANK YOU.
YOU'VE KILLED ONE OF KINNOU'S MEN
ARE YOU FROM THE GOVERN-MENT?

SIS, LOOK AT HIM... HE LOOKS LIKE A ROUNIN,
AND HE SAYS HE'S FROM EDO, DON'T TELL ME...
CHIYO-MATSU, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT'S MIBUROU?
SIS, DON'T YOU KNOW?
THEY'RE THE TERRORISTS WHO HAVE JUST ARRIVED IN KYOTO.
MIBU-ROU!?

THEY WEAR A UNIFORM OF A STANDARD LIGHT BLUE COLOUR AND WALK THE STREETS BOLDLY, AND THEY KEEP KILLING PEOPLE...
LIGHT BLUE?
HE'S NOT WEARING THAT KIND OF CLOTHING ...
.....
...HE'S HIDDEN HIS UNIFORM HERE...

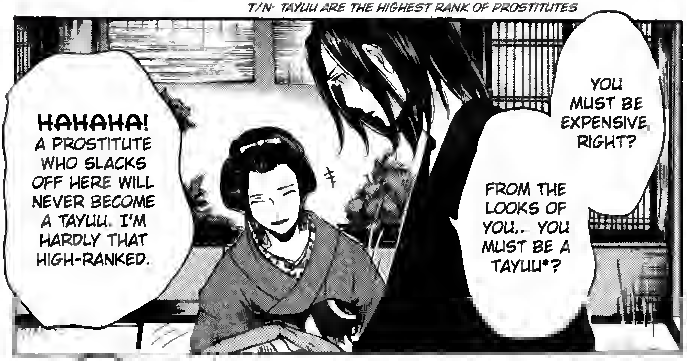
HE DISAPPEARED WHEN I WENT OFF TO GET SWEETS...
SOUJI, HOW DID YOU GET THE MONEY TO BUY SWEETS?
HE GAVE ME SOME POCKET MONEY INSTEAD
...YOU'RE AN ADULT, SHOULD YOU BE TAKING MONEY FROM SOMEONE ELSE...?
THERE WAS AN OLD MAN HANDING OUT SWEETS IN THE TEMPLE WHERE I WAS PLAYING WITH THE CHILDREN.
HE HANDED OUT SWEETS IN CHRONO-LOGICAL ORDER AND RAN OUT WHEN IT WAS MY TURN

YOU SAY THAT EVERY TIME, BUT YOU ALWAYS END UP DRINKING THE WINE YOURSELF.
ANYWAY, I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO BUY WINE.
AND ADULTS SHOULD BE DRINKING WINE
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME? I'LL GO GET SOME FOR YOU.
REALLY
WHAT IS THAT?
A UNIFORM.
WHAT IS THIS, REALLY. I CAN'T GET ANYTHING INTO THAT THICK HEAD OF YOURS
OKITA-KUN. NAGAKURA-KUN, I'VE HEARD THAT THERE'S BEEN FIGHTING IN THE VICINITY
IT WAS HIDDEN BEHIND THERE
WHY?
NO IDEA ...

MAYBE HE DIDN'T WANT TO DIRTY THE UNIFORM BECAUSE IT'S SO EXPENSIVE ...
OR MAYBE HE DIDN'T WANT TO WEAR IT BECAUSE HE FELT THE COLOUR DIDN'T SUIT HIM...
WHICHEVER REASON IT IS, IT'S JUST LIKE HIM...
AH-CHOO!
...ALL DONE.
THANK YOU.
YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THAT FOR QUITE SOME TIME

ARE YOU FROM EDO AS WELL?
...I LIVED IN EDO TILL I WAS THIRTEEN.
MY ACCENT'S RETURNED BECAUSE I HAVEN'T MET ANYONE FROM EDO FOR A LONG TIME.
...WHY DID YOU HELP ME?
WHY... MMM... IT'S LIKE PICKING UP A CAT, I GUESS.
CAT...
JUST TO CLARIFY... I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY TO SPEND HERE.
I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU TO.

T/N: TAYUU ARE THE HIGHEST RANK OF PROSTITUTES


YOU MUST BE EXPENSIVE, RIGHT?
FROM THE LOOKS OF YOU.. YOU MUST BE A TAYUU*?
KAHAHA! A PROSTITUTE WHO SLACKS OFF HERE WILL NEVER BECOME A TAYUU. I'M HARDLY THAT HIGH-RANKED.

HOW MUCH ARE YOU FOR A DAY? I'LL PAY FOR YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF ME GO OFF AND ENJOY YOURSELF
THIRTY-THREE MONME OF SILVER.
.....
LIKE I SAID, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

T/N: IN TODAY'S CURRENCY APPROXIMATELY ¥165,000 OR $1,650

I'M BEING WILLFUL, REALLY, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL INDEBTED.
I'VE LIKED YOU SINCE I FIRST SET EYES ON YOU.
THINGS ARE BOUND TO GET INTERESTING IF I STAY WITH YOU.
ALL RIGHT. WHY DON'T WE DO IT THIS WAY?
YOU BUY ME FOR THE NIGHT.
AND I'LL SLEEP WITH YOU IF YOU WANT ME TO.
.....
---THAT'S THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE'S SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME
HEH HEH..

I'M ALSO WORTH THIRTY-THREE MONME OF SILVER.
AHAHAHA! YOU DIDN'T LOOK LIKE SOMEONE SO WEIRD. YOU'RE ALSO REALLY CONFIDENT OF YOURSELF, AREN'T YOU?
WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY OFFER TO SLEEP WITH ME? THAT'S SOMETHING ONLY THE LOWEST PROSTITUTE WILL DO.
YOU HAVE TO RAISE YOUR OWN VALUE.
...
SIS, SIS.
THERE ARE TWO OR THREE ROUNIN ROAMING OUTSIDE.
SURELY THEY CAN'T BE LOOKING FOR THIS PERSON?

IT LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE..
...I THINK IT'S BETTER IF I LEAVE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CARE.
OUR BARRACKS AREN'T FAR FROM HERE I'LL RETURN THE MONEY I OWE YOU THE NEXT TIME I COME
WAIT.
NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOU ARE, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TROUBLE DEALING WITH SO MANY ENEMIES
ISN'T THAT TRUE, MIBUROU?
SHIMA-BARA!?

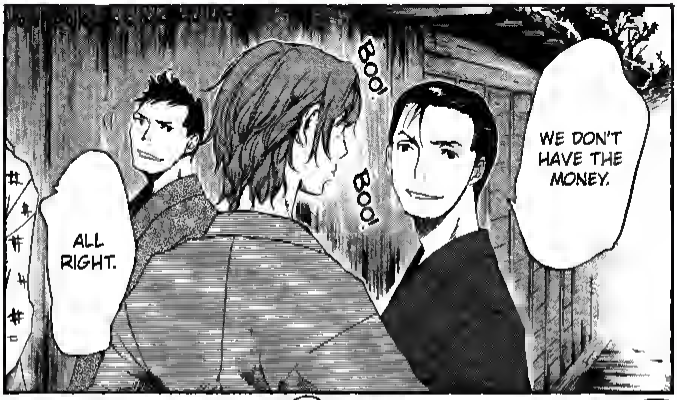
WHY IS HE IN THAT KIND OF PLACE?
松平肥後守御預
新選組宿
HE GOT SAVED BY THOSE PEOPLE WHEN HE WAS HURT.
BUT HIS WOUNDS AREN'T SERIOUS.
IS HE PLANNING TO COME BACK AFTER HE'S HAD HIS FUN? IT REALLY PISSES ME OFF...
NO.

HE WANTS US TO GO PICK HIM UP BECAUSE THE COMRADES OF THOSE RONIN HE KILLED ARE STILL ROAMING THE AREA.
HE WROTE "I'M REALLY SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE" THREE TIMES IN HIS LETTER.
HE REALLY HATES DEPENDING UPON SOMEONE ELSE'S HELP.
OK, LET'S GO PICK HIM UP NOW.
YOU LOOK HAPPY, KONDOU-SENSEI.
OF COURSE.
HE'S MY SWORN BROTHER. I'M NOT A MAN IF I DON'T GO TO HIS AID.
EXCUSE ME!!!

T/N: THERE'S A PUN ON 'ROU'. IN THE FORMER IT MEANS 'WOLF'. IN THE LATTER IT'S ROU AS IN ROUNIN/ROUSHI MEANING WANDERER. THE SHINSENGUMI WAS FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE MIBUROUSHI BUT DUE TO THE CHAOS THEY WROUGHT THEY CAME TO BE KNOWN AS THE MIBU WOLVES.

THERE ARE TWO MORE OF US, BUT THEY'RE OUT RIGHT NOW.
IF THEY FIND OUT ABOUT THIS, THEY'RE GOING TO BE SO HAPPY THEY'LL CREATE A RUCKUS.
IS HE THE MIBUROU.. I MEAN, THE MIBUROU-SHIGUMI'S ..
YES, HE'S THE COMMANDER, KONDOU ISAMI-SENSEI.
CREATE A RUCKUS.. THAT'D BE BAD.
INDEED, SO LET US GO.
THE PERSON UNDER YOUR CARE IS ONE OF OUR FAMILY MEMBERS.
LEAD ..
RELAX, NOTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN.
NOW, THEN ..
CAN YOU LEAD THE WAY?
UMM.. IS THE MAN WHO WAS WOUNDED SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO YOU ALL ..?

HERE, I HAVE THIS CANDY...
...I'LL GIVE YOU HALF.
.....
UH, I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY ON ME RIGHT NOW.
AS FOR A REWARD
HE'S SO LUCKY... I WANNA HAVE SOME FUN IN SHIMABARA TOO.
PLEASE WAIT HERE, I'LL GO CALL FOR HIM


WE DON'T HAVE THE MONEY.
BOO!
BOO!
ALL RIGHT.

YO.
MY APOLOGIES FOR MAKING YOU COME PICK ME UP AT THIS KIND OF PLACE...

THE PERVERT'S BACK.

...WAIT! WHY ARE THERE SO MANY PEOPLE!?
DIDN'T I SAY TWO OR THREE WERE ENOUGH IN THE LETTER I SENT SOUJI?
I TOLD THEM NOT TO COME, BUT EVERYONE WANTED TO TAG ALONG ...
WOW, SHE'S A REAL BEAUTY ...
SO WHAT HAPPENED?
I KILLED A ROUNIN.
IS THIS THE LADY WHO SAVED YOU?
YES.
I'M KIMIGIKU.
I DIDN'T MEAN THAT. I MEANT BETWEEN YOU AND THE LADY ...
...I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING!

I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY.
WHAAT?
That's no fun...
BUT WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE
LET'S COME TOGETHER NEXT TIME.
ONCE SOCIETY RECOGNISES US, WE CAN COME HERE WHENEVER WE LIKE.
ONCE WE HAVE THE MONEY WE WON'T HAVE TO DEPEND UPON THOSE WHO EARN THEIR MONEY BY EXTORTION AND THREATS.
WHEN THAT TIME ARRIVES LET'S COME AND ASK FOR A FEW PROSTITUTES TO CELEBRATE.
YOU ARE...

*TENJIN A PROSTITUTE SECOND IN PLACE ONLY TO THE TAYUU IN SHIMABARA IN THE AGEYA (PLEASURE HOUSE) ONLY THE TAYUU AND TENJIN MAY BE SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR

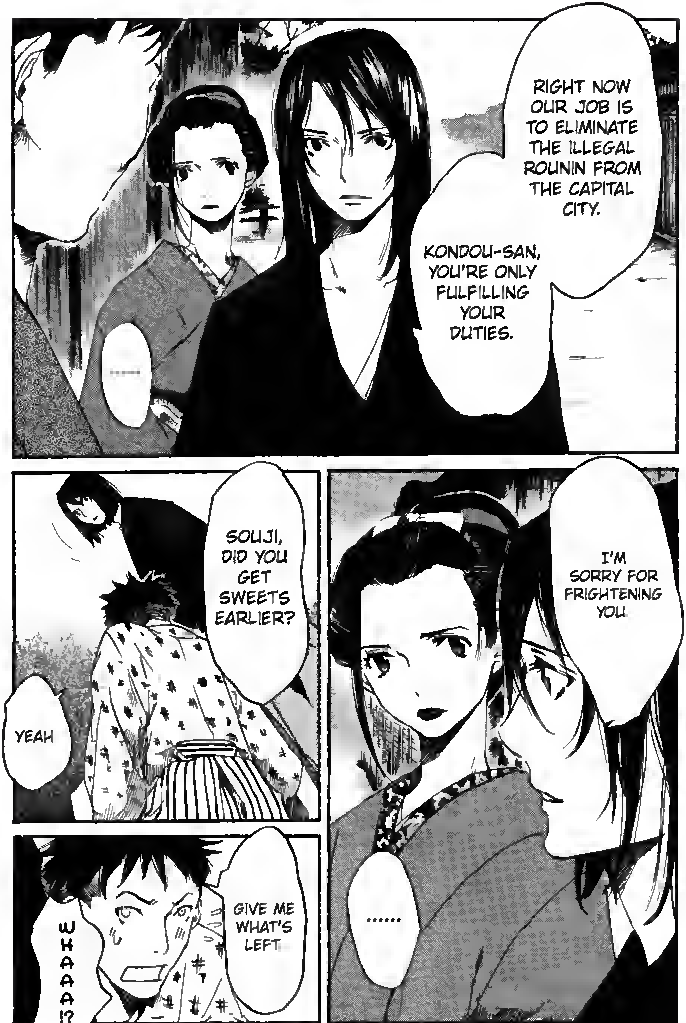
SEE, TOSHI-SAN? DON'T FEEL TOO BAD.
NO, I'M REALLY NOT FEELING DOWN AT ALL..
TOSHI-SAN...
I'M A TENJIN. IT WOULD BE AN HONOUR TO HAVE YOU ASK FOR ME.
OKAY.
THAT'S RIGHT, I HAVEN'T ASKED YOUR NAME...
ARE YOU THE MIBU'S...
YOU KILLED HASHI-MOTO!

REALISE THAT!
WE'RE HERE FOR REVENGE!

STAND BACK!
FLICK
!
WHOO

AAAHH!
SLASH

PARDON ME.
AAUGH!
SOMEONE REPORT THIS TO THE DISTRICT OFFICERS IMMEDIATELY!
THIS MAN'S DEAD!
OOPS. MY HANDS MOVED ON THEIR OWN
SOUJI, HOW ARE THINGS GOING ON YOUR SIDE?
I'M NOT SURE. IF HE'S LUCKY, HE MIGHT MAKE IT.
YOU ACTUALLY DID SOMETHING LIKE THIS BEFORE THE DOORS OF SHIMABARA ...
YOU KILLED SOMEONE!
DID WE DO SOMETHING WE SHOULDN'T HAVE, TOSHI-SAN?
NO.


RIGHT NOW OUR JOB IS TO ELIMINATE THE ILLEGAL ROUNIN FROM THE CAPITAL CITY.
KONDOU-SAN, YOU'RE ONLY FULFILLING YOUR DUTIES.
.....
SOUJI, DID YOU GET SWEETS EARLIER?
YEAH
I'M SORRY FOR FRIGHTENING YOU.
.....
GIVE ME WHAT'S LEFT.
WHAAA!?

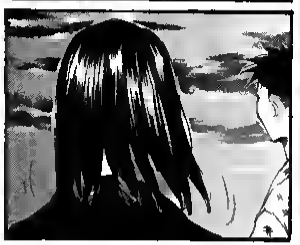
IF YOU DON'T MIND, TAKE THIS.
..BY THE WAY, YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME YOUR NAME.
I'M THE VICE COMMANDER OF THE SHINSENGUMI. HIJIKATA TOSHIZOU.
SINCE WE LIVE NEARBY. I'M SURE WE'LL GET TO MEET ONCE AGAIN.

IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, YOU CAN FIND ME AT THE MAEKAWA OR YAKI RESIDENCES IN MIBU.
I'LL REPAY YOU LATER.
HIJIKATA, WE'RE LEAVING.
OH, RIGHT.
I'M OKITA SOUJI.
HEY, DON'T WE HAVE TO CLEAN UP?
SURELY SOMEONE'S WHO JUST KILLED A MAN CAN'T HANG AROUND IN FRONT OF SOMEONE'S DOORSTEP, CAN HE?
EVEN THOUGH A PLACE FILLED WITH THE SCENT OF WHITE POWDER IS DISREPUTABLE, I MAY NEED TO IMPOSE ON YOU AGAIN IN THE FUTURE.
Me too!
I may need to impose on you too!

T/N: BY WHITE POWDER HE MEANS THE MAKE-UP OIRAN USE TO PAINT THEIR FACES

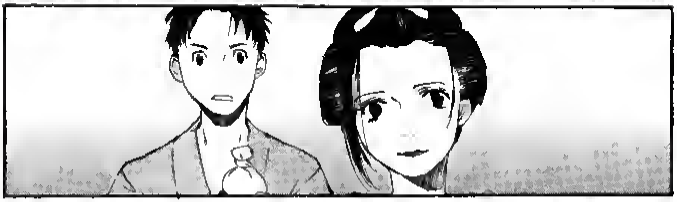
OH,
THOSE SWEETS ARE FROM KAMEYA. THEY'RE REALLY GOOD.

YOU'LL HAVE TO BUY ME SOME IN RETURN FOR THE ONES I GAVE YOU
FINE.



WE'LL BE SEEING YOU.

Smile



DURING THE END OF THE EDO PERIOD THE SHINSENGUMI WAS A GROUP TASKED WITH ELIMINATING THE ILLEGAL ROUNIN IN THE CAPITAL CITY
THE STORY OF THEIR FORMATION AND THEIR DEEDS HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.